

Syllabus

Personal Finance

Course Overview

This one-semester course is intended to help you familiarize yourself with the basic and essential concepts of personal finance. This course has 15 lessons organized into three units. Each unit has a Unit Activity and each lesson contains one or more Lesson Activities.

Additionally, there is one Course Activity that you need to work on throughout the duration of the course. This activity is a long-term project spread over the length of the course. The due date for this activity is to be determined by the course instructor.

This course covers the fundamentals of personal finance, role of consumers in the economic system of the United States, financial planning in personal life, ways to manage finances, and different investment strategies. It also covers various career options available in the field of personal finance.

You will submit the Unit Activity documents and Course Activities to your teacher, and you will grade your work in the Lesson Activities by comparing them with given sample responses. The Unit Activities, Course Activity (submitted to the teacher), and the Lesson Activities (self-checked) are the major components of this course. There are other assessment components, namely the mastery test questions that feature along with the lesson; the pre- and post-test questions that come at the beginning and end of the unit, respectively; and an end-of-semester test. All of these tests are a combination of simple multiple-choice questions and technology-enhanced (TE) questions.

Course Goals

This course will help you meet the following goals:

- Understand the role of the consumer in the economic system of the United States.
- Identify types and services of financial institutions and their role in personal financial planning.
- Explore various career options in personal finance.
- Learn the basics of personal financial planning.
- Manage personal and family incomes and expenses.

Prerequisite Skills

Personal Finance has the following prerequisites:

- basic math knowledge
- ability to visualize and apply creativity and innovation
- familiarity with the writing process and following guidelines
- basic computer skills
- ability to structure and process information

General Skills

To participate in this course, you should be able to do the following:

- Perform basic operations on a computer.
- Perform online research using various search engines and library databases.
- Communicate through email and participate in discussion boards.

For a complete list of general skills that are required for participation in online courses, refer to the Prerequisites section of the Plato Student Orientation document, found at the beginning of this course.

Credit Value

Personal Finance is a 0.5-credit course.

Course Materials

- notebook
- computer with Internet connection and speakers or headphones
- Microsoft Word or equivalent
- Microsoft Excel or equivalent
- Microsoft PowerPoint or equivalent

Course Pacing Guide

This course description and pacing guide is intended to help you stay on schedule with your work. Note that your course instructor may modify the schedule to meet the specific needs of your class. Also, the course instructor will determine the due date for the Course Activity, which is a long-term project over the length of the course.

Unit 1: Consumer Economics and Financial Services

Summary

In this unit, you will examine the role of the consumer in the economic system of the United States. You will also analyze the economic rights and responsibilities of individuals as consumers. Further, you will learn about the types and services of financial institutions and their role in personal financial planning. Finally, you will explore various careers options in personal finance.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
1 day: 1	Syllabus and Plato Student Orientation <i>Review the Plato Student Orientation and Course Syllabus at the beginning of this course.</i>	Course Orientation
5 days: 2–6	How the Economy Affects Consumers <i>Understand the role of the consumer in the American economic system and identify national and international issues that affect consumers.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 7–10	Consumer Information: Sources and Effects <i>Identify various sources of consumer information and their effects on consumer decisions.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 11–14	Consumer Rights and Responsibilities <i>Identify the economic rights and responsibilities of individuals as consumers.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 15–18	Financial Institutions <i>Describe the types and services of financial institutions and their role in personal financial planning.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 19–22	Careers in Personal Finance and Consumer Services <i>Explore careers in personal finance and consumer services.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 23	Space Jumble	Game
4 days: 24–27	Unit Activity/Threaded Discussion—Unit 1	Activity/Discussion

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
1 day: 28	Post-test—Unit 1	Assessment

Unit 2: Personal Financial Management

Summary

In this unit, you will evaluate the need for personal and family financial planning. You will also learn about ways to manage personal and family financial resources. Further, you will explore options to meet financial goals of your life. Finally, you will examine the basic principles of taxations and how it affects consumers and their financial goals.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
5 days: 29–33	Financial Planning <i>Evaluate the need for personal and family financial planning and how it affects consumer decisions.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 34–38	Managing Income and Expenses <i>Acquire skills for managing personal and family incomes and expenses.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 39–43	Banking <i>Evaluate services and related costs associated with personal banking.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 44–48	Consumer Credit and Loans <i>Identify various sources of consumer credit and compare their costs and benefits.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 49–53	Financing Education after High School <i>Identify various sources of consumer credit and compare their costs and benefits.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 54–58	Planning for Living and Leisure Expenses <i>Identify various sources of consumer credit and compare their costs and benefits.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 59–63	Managing Taxes and Legal Documents <i>Explain the basic principles of taxations and how it affects consumers.</i>	Lesson
1 day: 64	Para Jumble	Game
4 days: 65–68	Unit Activity/Threaded Discussion—Unit 2	Activity/Discussion
1 day: 69	Post-test—Unit 2	Assessment

Unit 3: Securing the Future

Summary

In this unit, you will understand the need for investments and savings. You will also explore different investment and saving options based on the different income and needs of the families. Further, you will explore different types of insurance needed by families and individuals to manage financial risks.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
4 days: 70–73	Saving and Investing <i>Identify reasons for saving and investing and different savings and investment options.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 74–77	Choosing the Right Savings and Investment Options <i>Plan and implement savings and investment programs for individuals with different incomes and family needs.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 78–82	Buying Insurance <i>Explain how individuals and families can use various types of insurance for managing financial risk.</i>	Lesson
Extended Project	Making a Will	Course Activity
1 day: 83	Space Jumble	Game
4 days: 84–87	Unit Activity/Threaded Discussion—Unit 3	Activity/Discussion
1 day: 88	Post-test—Unit 3	Assessment
1 day: 89	Semester Review	
1 day: 90	End-of-Semester Test	Assessment